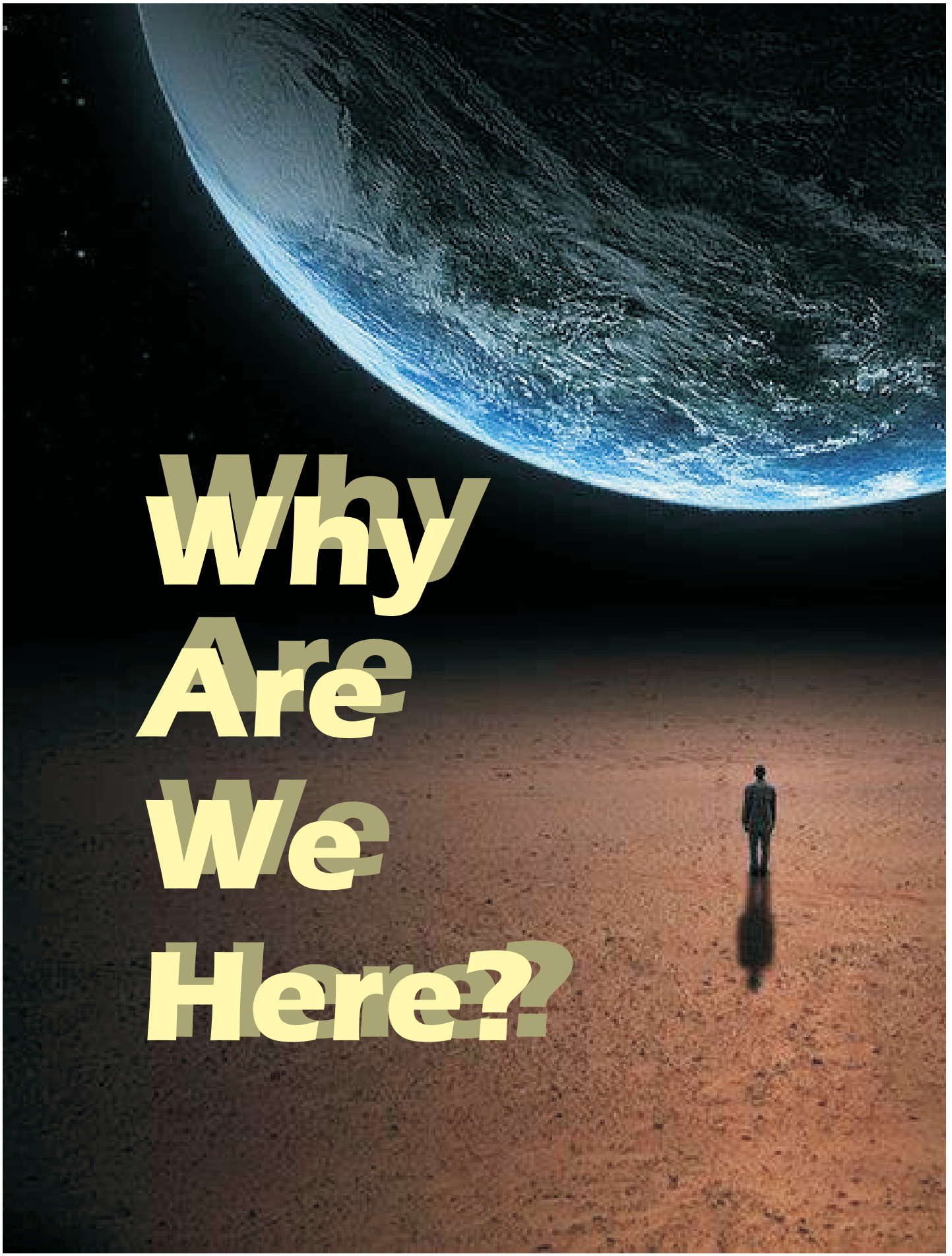
Why
Are
We
Here?

IMPORTANT GLOSSARY

Allah : The arabic word Allah denotes the Creator and Cherisher of the world. Literal meaning of this word is 'The one and only God who is worthy of worship'. Uniqueness of this word when compared to the other words denoting god is that it does not have plural or gender. God almighty himself says about Him in his Book thus:
"Say (O Prophet): Allah is one and the only. He is absolute. He neither begets nor was He begotten. There is none comparable to Him." (The Qur'an 112:1-4)

Islam : Means peace. Another meaning of Islam is obedience. That is, by obeying the commandments of God almighty one can achieve peace in this world and in the hereafter.

Muslim - Means one who is obedient to God. Whoever lives a life of obedience to God almighty can be called as a Muslim irrespective of his belongingness to any race, color, country, language etc. it is the title achieved by practice and it does not come by one's birth to Muslim parents, by adopting a particular dress code or by having any arabic or urdu name as commonly misunderstood by many.

In the name of God most gracious, most merciful

Our existence: Purposeful or Purposeless?

One truth is we are alive today. Another is that we all have to die tomorrow.

Question is – Do we live and die without a purpose? Or is there a purpose behind our Existence?

Let us look around. Do we find anything happening without a reason, a purpose? The answer is 'No.' Nothing happens without a purpose, nothing is done without a purpose. How then can we assume that the whole human race is here without a purpose?

Yes, there is a strong reason for our being here on Earth! It is important for every human being to find out this reason before it is TOO LATE!

We did not arrive on this planet by our own sweet will. And neither will we depart from

this planet because of our own desire. This implies the presence of a Supreme Being – the Creator, who controls our birth and death. This Creator has put us on the earth as a test. To guide men in this test, He has put in every person a judgment of right and wrong, good and bad.

"And by the soul and He who proportioned it. And inspired it (with discernment) of its wickedness and its righteousness." (Qur'an 91:7, 8)

Further He helps man by choosing a man amongst them and conveys His guidance to mankind through such chosen messengers. He also revealed a series of scriptures to guide mankind. These messengers are called as 'Rishis' in ancient India and 'Prophets' elsewhere. The last in this series of Prophethood was a man by the name Muhammad (peace be upon him). Born 1430 years back, in the desert of Arabia, himself

being unlettered, the word of God was revealed to him. That revelation is the Qur'an – the word from our Creator. A Book preserved by that same Creator through the past 14 centuries, absolutely unchanged.

"Indeed, it is we who sent down the message (i.e. the Qur'an) and, indeed, We will be its guardian." (Qur'an 15:9)

This Qur'an is the last and final message to the whole of mankind, from the almighty God, who is called as 'Allah' in the Arabic language. Well, let us find out what is the sustained purpose of our life, what happens to us after death, etc., from the Designer and Sustainer of this Universe.

The Purpose of Our Existence

In the Qur'an, our Creator has clearly stated the purpose of our existence:

"He who created Death and Life, that He may TEST, which of you is best in deed". (Qur'an

67:2)

Yes, dear Brothers and Sisters – this life is a TEST! The test is to find out whether a person does good deeds or does bad deeds, whether he follows the truth or follows falsehood. This, therefore, is an Exam. And the purpose why we are here on earth is to pass this Exam.

The Results Day

Question – When will the results of this exam be declared?

*"Every soul shall have a taste of death: and only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full recompense. Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Garden will have attained the object (Purpose of Life): for the life of this world is but goods and chattels of deception." (*Qur'an *3:185)*

After the life in this world there is a life after death. We will all, every single one of mankind (past, present and future) will be raised back to life. No one will be able to

escape that day.

*"Indeed, the Day of Judgment is an appointed time – The day the Horn is blown and you will come forth in multitudes." (*Qur'an *78:17, 18)*

We will find ourselves alive once again. But there will be no deeds then – only the results of our deeds. On that day we won't have our wealth, our possessions, our relatives, our spouses, our parents, our friends. On that day everybody will be bare and alone, the same way we were first born on earth. The only thing with us on that day will be our deeds.

Alive again? Is it possible?

God Almighty thus convinces us about that….

And of His signs is that you see the earth stilled, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and grows. Indeed, He who has given it life is the Giver of Life to the dead. Indeed, He is over all things competent. (Qur'an 41:39)

THE JUDGEMENT

*"Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good see it! And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil shall see it." (*Qur'an *99:7, 8)*

The record of our deeds will be produced before us on that day. Everyone on whom wrong was done, justice will be done to him.

*"That Day, we will seal over their mouths, and their hands will speak to us, and their feet will testify about what they used to earn." (*Qur'an *36:65)*

After the judgment our permanent abode will be decided depending upon the weight of our good deeds. It will be either Paradise or Hell!

*"Then as for one whose scales are heavy (with good deeds) he will be in a pleasant life (in Paradise). But as for one whose scales are light, his refuge will be in the pit of Hell-fire. (*Qur'an *101:6-9)*

For Sure!

Brothers and Sisters, all this is surely going to happen.

*"The Hour (of Judgment) will certainly, certainly come; therein is no doubt (about it)." (*Qur'an *40:59)*

The realization will dawn on everyone that, 'yes, I have been raised back to life by my Creator.' That will be the day of very severe regrets for the wrongdoer.

*"The Day that the wrongdoer will bite at his hands, he will say, 'Oh! Would that I had taken a (straight) path with the Messenger!'" (*Qur'an *25:27)*

It will be the Day *"the guilty will be stuck dumb with despair." (*Qur'an *30:12).*

What is there at Paradise and Hell?

The Qur'an, the last Testament or Veda from God reminds repeatedly about Paradise and

Hell.

*"No soul knows what comfort has been concealed for them as a reward for what they did" (*Qur'an *32:17)*

*"Indeed, they who have believed and done righteous deeds – those are the best of creatures. Their reward with Allah will be gardens of perpetual residence beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide for ever. Allah being pleased with them and they with Him. That is for whoever has feared his Lord." (*Qur'an *98:7, 8)*

*"(The righteous will be) in an elevated garden, its fruit to be picked hanging near. (They will be told): 'Eat and drink in satisfaction for what you put forth in the days past.'" (*Qur'an *69: 22-24)*

As the life in paradise will be eternal and there will not be death or disease, all therein will be young and beautiful, without any worries. There will be peace, security, good

companionship, pure spouses, and all that one's heart desires... and enjoyment in its most perfect sense.

At the same time, the Qur'an warns severely about Hell, which will be the eternal abode for those who fail in this test.

"Those who reject Our signs, We shall soon cast into the fire; as often as their skins are roasted through, we shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the penalty." (Qur'an *4:56)*

"Truly, Hell is a place of ambush, a dwelling place for those who transgress (like polytheists, hypocrites, sinners, criminals etc).They will abide therein for ages, nothing cool shall they taste therein, nor any drink, except boiling water, and dirty wound discharges - an appropriate recompense!" (Qur'an 78:21-26)

Similar warnings are there in different chapters of the Qur'an and in the sayings of the

last Prophet, Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

An absolute Reality

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the Day of Judgment, Paradise and Hell are not illusions, dreams or concoctions. They are as real as our present life. All this punishment or reward will be borne by our physical bodies. We take so much care of our bodies here. Why not take long term care and do more good acts?

See the Signs!

Today, we can't see God Almighty, the Day of Judgment, Heaven and Hell. But this is the test! The day when mankind will see all this happening – NO ONE will disbelieve. But belief will be of no use then. The exam will be over. The test is to believe in all this while they are unseen. There are clear signs all around us to guide us. What were we a 100 years back? Nothing. Today we are living and vibrant. Who did this? Surely, our Creator!

*"Does not man see that We have created him from a (mere) sperm-drop. Yet, behold, he (stands forth) as an open opponent. And he puts forth Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says, 'Who will give life to these bones after they have rotten and have become dust?'" Say: "He will give life to them who created them for the first time! And He is All-knower of every creation!" (*Qur'an *36:77079)*

What should we do to pass this test?

We should live a life of obedience to the Creator. (This is what is called as 'Islam' in Arabic language). First, we should recognize Him as our Master and accept all the Messengers and messages sent by Him. Next, we should do whatever He enjoins us to do. Those are called good deeds (*Punya*). We should shun away from the deeds He prohibits (*Papa*). Man cannot decide good and bad according to his own wishes or the community. As our final return is to God

Almighty, we should completely depend upon His guidance to pass this test.

*"And upon Allah is the responsibility to explain the straight path." (*Qur'an *16:9)*

*"Indeed (incumbent) upon Us is the guidance, and, indeed, to Us belongs the Hereafter and the First (i.e. the Present)." (*Qur'an *92:12-13)*

Today, where can we find God's true guidance?

It is true that the Creator has been sending His Messengers and messages to mankind at all times and to all nations and they were pure at that time. But later generations distorted them due to ignorance or to exploit the people. Now, the latest message of God can be found in the Holy Qur'an (the last Veda of God) and in the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (the last Prophet).

About the Qur'an, God says,

"This is the book about which there is no

*doubt, a guidance for those conscious of God." (*Qur'an *2:2)*

The Qur'an also challenges and warns those who do not believe in it:

*"And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down (i.e. the Qur'an) upon Our servant (i.e. Prophet Muhammad) then produce a chapter the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful. But, if you do not – and you will never be able to – then fear the Fire whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers." (*Qur'an *2:23, 24).*

Also God Almighty very authoritatively proclaims in His Book:

*"Truly, the religion with God is Islam...." (*Qur'an *3:19)*

That is, the way of obedience or submission shown through His Prophets is the only way that is acceptable to Him. He also asks and warns:

*"Do they seek other than the religion of God, while to Him is submitted all creatures in the heavens and earth, willingly or unwillingly. And to Him shall they all be returned?" (*Qur'an *3:83)*

*"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be of the losers." (*Qur'an *3:85)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, through these verses our Creator and Master warns all those who show disobedience to Him that they will be punished for their deeds. The biggest act of disobedience to our Master is to worship others besides Him. This is a very grave sin committed widely by people. He, who created us, sustains us and showers boundless mercies on us warns against this very seriously.

*"Verily, joining others in worship with Allah is a great injustice" (*Qur'an *31:13)*

This major sin removes the sense of

answerability for one's own deeds from human mind as it distorts God's image in them. In fact this is the root cause for the growth of sins and evil in the society. Further it divides humanity into casts, tribes, sects etc. Almighty God informs us that this as an unforgivable sin.

*"Verily, Allah forgives not (the sin of) setting up partners in worship with Him, but He forgives whom He pleases sins other than that, and whoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, has indeed gone far astray." (*Qur'an *4:116)*

*"Verily those who disbelieve among the people of the (earlier) scriptures and polytheists will be in the fire of hell, abiding eternally therein. Those are the worst of creatures." (*Qur'an *98:6)*.

Check it for yourself

The Qur'an has brought these warnings for mankind. Let us take heed. It is the book from

our Creator. The Qur'an invites all of mankind to come and examine it.

"Do they not consider the Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other than Allah, they would have found therein many discrepancies."

This is the standing challenge of the Qur'an. Check the Qur'an. Scrutinize it. Examine it. You will not find in it even a single contradiction!

Dear Brothers and Sisters. We have just one chance here on earth. The life after death is the reality. The Judgment Day, Heaven and Hell are all true. Why not sincerely search the truth and come to the purpose of our existence with surety of faith. **All this before it is too late!**

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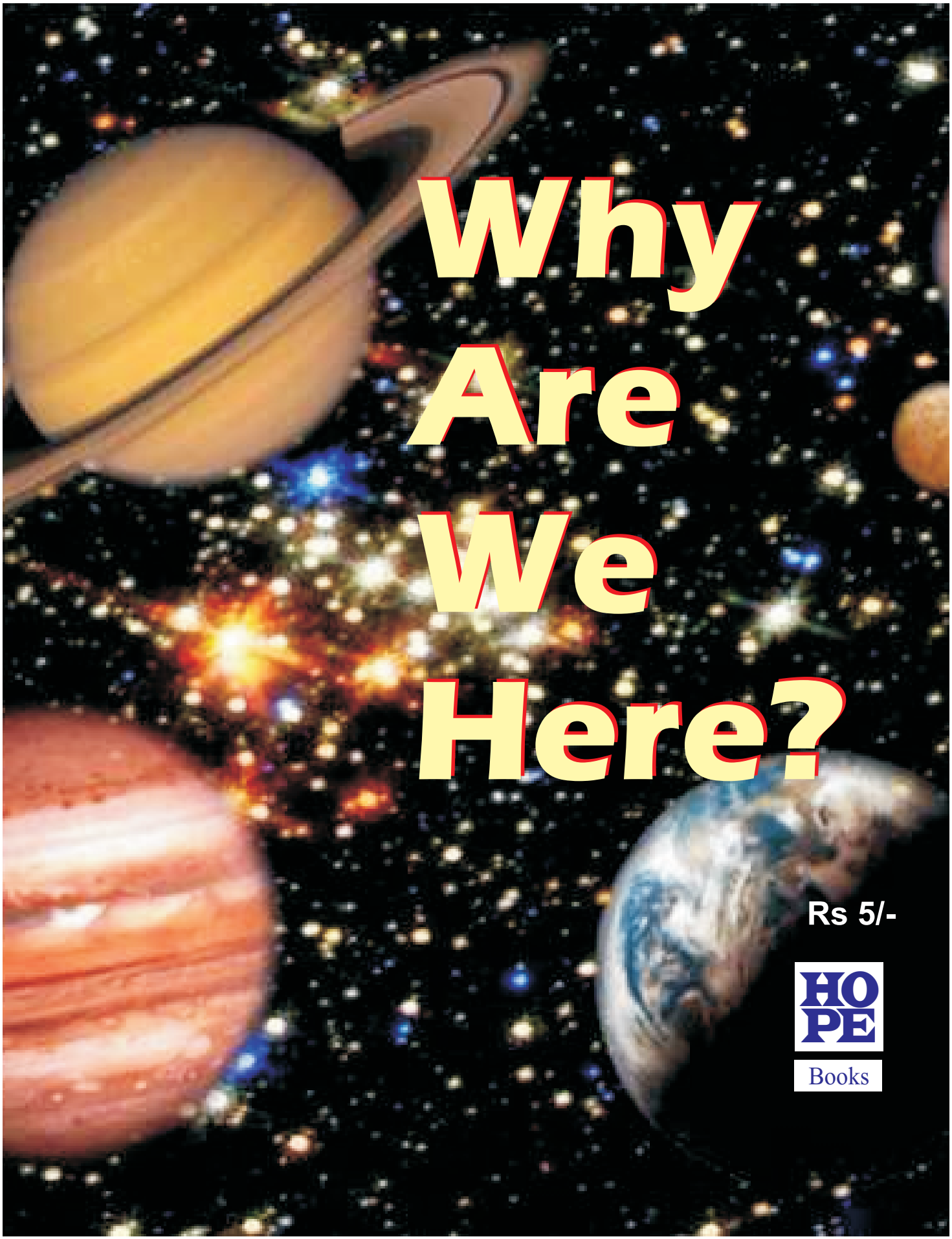

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